Amendments To The Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A mail decontamination method comprising:

isolating the interior of a flexible bag from gaseous communication with the ambient while the flexible bag is within a mailbag inside a public mailbox;

exhausting gas from the interior of the flexible bag to the exterior of the flexible bag through:

a first valve in the flexible bag; and

a filter;

determining the presence of a biohazard deposited in the filter by the exhausted gas ~~and a decontaminate therefor~~; ~~and~~

selecting a decontaminant based on the presence of the biohazard detected in said determining step; and

introducing the ~~decontaminate~~ decontaminant through a second valve in the flexible bag into the interior of the flexible bag.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein said biohazard is a microbe.

Claim 3 (Canceled): Please cancel claim 3.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 3, further comprising exhausting gas from the interior of the flexible bag to the exterior of the flexible bag through the first valve after a predetermined time that is sufficient to decontaminate the biohazard.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the filter is removably attached to the first valve.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the ~~decontaminate~~ decontaminant is selected from the group consisting of chlorine dioxide gas and potassium bromide gas.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method as defined in Claim 4, after the introducing of the ~~decontaminate~~ decontaminant, further comprising neutralizing the ~~decontaminate~~ decontaminant within the flexible bag.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the exhausting gas further comprises:

forming a negative atmospheric pressure within the flexible bag; and

introducing gas, via a third valve in the flexible bag, into the negative atmospheric pressure of the flexible bag.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said isolating further comprises sealing the flexible bag with a resealable closure part of the flexible bag.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 9, wherein the resealable closure part of the flexible bag is a double sealing mechanism.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 9, wherein:

the resealable closure part of the flexible bag comprises mutually engaging ridges; and

the method further comprises engaging the mutually engaging ridges by pressure exerted upon same by a clamp translating the length of the mutually engaging ridges.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 11, wherein the engaging the mutually engaging ridges by pressure exerted upon same by a clamp translating the length of the mutually engaging ridges further comprises pulling the clamp with a cord.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method as defined in Claim 12, wherein the cord extends from the clamp to outside of the public mailbox.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method comprising:

sealing ~~the~~ a flexible bag with a resealable closure part of the flexible bag to isolate the interior of a flexible bag from gaseous communication with the ambient;

forming a negative atmospheric pressure within the flexible bag by exhausting gas from the interior of the flexible bag to the exterior of the flexible bag through:

a first valve in the flexible bag; and

a filter;

determining the presence of a biohazard deposited in the filter by the exhausted gas ~~and a decontaminate therefore~~;

selecting a decontaminant based on the presence of the biohazard detected in said determining step; and

introducing the ~~decontaminate~~ decontaminant through a second valve in the flexible bag into the interior of the flexible bag;

introducing gas, via a third valve in the flexible bag, into the negative atmospheric pressure of the flexible bag; and

unsealing the flexible bag with the resealable closure part of the flexible bag for exposure to the ambient.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method as defined in Claim 14, prior to said unsealing the flexible bag, further comprising neutralizing the ~~decontaminate~~ decontaminant within the flexible bag.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 14 wherein:

the resealable closure part of the flexible bag comprises mutually engaging ridges; and

the method further comprises engaging the mutually engaging ridges by pressure exerted upon same by a clamp translating the length of the mutually engaging ridges.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented: The method as defined in Claim 16, wherein the engaging the mutually engaging ridges by pressure exerted upon same by a clamp translating the length of the mutually engaging ridges further comprises pulling the clamp with a cord.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method as defined in Claim 17, wherein the cord extends from the clamp to outside of ~~the~~ a public mailbox.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A mail decontamination method comprising:

sealing ~~the~~ a flexible bag with a plurality of sealing mechanisms integral to the flexible bag to isolate the interior of a flexible bag from gaseous communication with the ambient while the flexible bag is within a mailbag inside a public mailbox;

forming a negative atmospheric pressure within the flexible bag by exhausting gas from the interior of the flexible bag to the exterior of the flexible bag through:

a first valve in the flexible bag; and

a filter;

determining the presence of a biohazard deposited in the filter by the exhausted gas and a ~~decontaminate~~ decontaminant therefor; ~~and~~

determining the presence of a biohazard deposited in the filter by the exhausted gas ~~and a decontaminate therefor; and~~ ;

selecting a decontaminant based on the presence of the biohazard detected in said determining step;

introducing the ~~decontaminate~~ decontaminant through a second valve in the flexible bag into the interior of the flexible bag;

introducing gas, via a third valve in the flexible bag, into the negative atmospheric pressure of the flexible bag; and

unsealing the plurality of sealing mechanisms for exposure to the ambient to provide access to any mail in the flexible bag.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method as defined in Claim 19, wherein:

each said sealing mechanism comprises mutually engaging ridges; and

the sealing comprises engaging the mutually engaging ridges of each said sealing mechanism by pressure exerted upon same by respective clamps translating the length of the mutually engaging ridges of each said sealing mechanism.